



Society Activity Report 2019-20 **THE CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

The Centre for Economic Research strives to inculcate an academic culture of seeking knowledge in the vast, multi-faceted discipline of economics. As a departmental society, we attempt to take our learning beyond the confines of the classroom. The following is a list of events that we hosted around the year:

Seminar on “An Introduction to Quantitative Macroeconomics” – 21/08/2019

The Centre for Economic Research kickstarted the year with a seminar by Aniket Baksy, an alumnus of the college and currently pursuing a PhD in Economics from Stanford University, on “An Introduction to Quantitative Macroeconomics its history, modelling techniques and applications.” The seminar was held for students of the college on 21 August, 2019 and had around 50 attendees.

Seminar on “Improving School Attendance for Adolescent Girls- Evidence from a Policy Experiment in Delhi’s Public Schools” – 30/08/2019

The Centre for Economic Research, St. Stephen’s College hosted Garima Agarwal, doctoral student at the Delhi School of Economics, presenting research on the topic “Improving School Attendance for Adolescent Girls- Evidence from a Policy Experiment in Delhi’s Public Schools”, analysing the role of free provisioning of gender-specific inputs on school attendance. The event was open to the junior members of the college and saw the active participation of 30 students.

Seminar on “Improved Learning Outcomes through Information Provision” – 27/09/2019

A Lecture by Dr. Farzana Afridi, Assistant Professor, ISI Delhi on “Improved Learning Outcomes through Information Provision” was held on 27th September, 2019. It discussed the learnings from conducting Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) to assess if the learning outcomes of primary school children can improve by providing information to parents. The event was open to the Junior Members of the college and had a participation of 60 students.

Rural Research Project – From January 2020

The Centre for Economic Research St. Stephens College, kicked off its Rural Research Project in January 2020. The program involved around 80 students who began secondary research and pre-field work for two projects, in Uttarakhand and Delhi-NCR respectively. In Uttarakhand, students sought to understand the gendered division of labor in farmwork, and how women experience the adverse effects of climate change. In Delhi-NCR, students sought to carry out a case study

on the agricultural village of Palla, to understand the nature of urban farming, alternative farming practices and their relevance to the agricultural economy. Pre-field visits were carried out for both projects, however the primary field work in March was put on hold owing to the COVID pandemic.



Fig: Women resistance in Kumaon

Seminar on “Mechanism Design: An Introduction using Auctions” – 3/02/2020

On 3rd February, 2020, The Centre for Economic Research hosted Dr. Albin Erlanson, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Essex for a lecture on “Mechanism Design: An Introduction using Auctions”, explaining various auction formats, optimal auction designs and the microeconomic mechanisms that govern auctions. The event saw active participation from the student community of St. Stephens College.

Goutham Krishna Research Fellowship 2019-20 – Completed in May 2020

Two teams were awarded the Goutham Krishna Research Fellowship to carry out research projects over the course of the academic year 2019-20. Presentations for the same were held over Zoom on 1st June 2020, attended by faculty members and students.

The first team comprising Lavanya Singh, Rhea Bhatia, Savi Garg, Sneha Dhawan and Sukanya Nambiar worked on the topic - 'How Does a Typical Lower Income Individual Save?', exploring the validity of the life cycle hypothesis of consumption. They were mentored by Prof. Poonam Kalra.



The second team comprising of Aditi Acharya, Shubhangi Kumar and Yashaswini Shekhawat worked on the topic 'Expressions of an Entrenched Difference: How Households, Consumers and Migrant Labourers Experience Caste' and were mentored by Prof. Benston John. Both Research Papers were completed in May 2020 and presented before an audience of 90.

Reading group session – August 2020

The Centre for Economic Research of St. Stephen's College conducted a Reading Group Session on the famous paper by F A Hayek, "The Use of Knowledge in Society, on the role of markets as a means of decentralising knowledge and attaining optimal outcomes.